Research on herbs as pesticides

†1843. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any work has been undertaken in a planned manner to see the use of the herbs found in various forests of India as pesticides;

(b) if so, the outcomes thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, the Government of India, Department of Biotechnology has initiated an All India Coordinated Research Project on the development of environment friendly plant based pesticides during the year 2002-03 with nine participating institutions. Till date, 92 plants/plant parts samples have been collected, extracted and screened against the major pests of eonomically important crops. Screening of plant extracts has been done for their pesticidal, larvicidal, insect growth regulator, oviposition, attractant, deterrent, antifeedant and repellent activities. Other programmes on the development of biodegradable and eco-friendly botanical pesticides have shown insecticidal and antifeedant activities and some of them have been found very promising against major pests of economic importance including cotton bollworm.

CSE report on bottled water

1844. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Science and Technology Minister has written to the Prime Minister that his department had found 'considerable merit' in the Centre for Science and Environment report on bottled water sold in Delhi and Mumbai;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.